

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee  
Monthly meeting minutes, March 4th, 2019, 7:00pm  
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Becky Wigg, Anne Miller, Amanda Carlson, Wes Cate

Members of the public in attendance: Ed Hutchinson, Michael Billingsly, Rich Phillips

- Select a facilitator
  - Anne volunteered.
- Public comment
  - None.
- Announcements
  - Amanda Carlson introduced herself. She is an official committee member as of February.
  - No other announcements.
- Agenda modification
  - Modified order of agenda below in order of occurrence and/or urgency.
- Approval of previous minutes
  - Minutes motioned, seconded and approved.
- Business
  - Act 174 update
    - Nick updated this doc with the feedback and sent to Bonnie at CVRPC. Feedback is expected by 3/7 from them.
    - Nick presented to the planning commission. They were receptive, but did not expect to formally incorporate it any time soon. They will likely pass a resolution in support of it, or provide feedback if it is needed.
  - Update on planned activities
    - (Jimmy Kennedy Breakfast; Plainfield community supper)
      - No update on this.
    - Town meeting
      - Anne has a table and some books and DVDs assembled for town meeting. She also has brochures from Capstone.
  - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam. (if needed)
    - As part of the discovery process Plainfield submitted a lot of questions. Responses were received a couple weeks ago, and GMP did not answer the questions.
      - GMP wants to address safety questions later.
      - They also did not specifically answer any of the detailed requests for information. (such as what happens if the emergency spillway is opened).
    - Because of this lack of response Plainfield has filed a protest with the case which objects to GMP's lack of response. This is phrased as both a "motion to compel" and a request to comply.
      - Effectively this is asking the hearing officer to rule that safety must be addressed during the certificate of public good.
    - The dam safety report came out in December of 2018, so in the midst of this review process.
      - Michael has some skepticism about the objectivity of the past dam safety reports.
      - This new dam safety report picked apart the condition, as well as addressing the existing condition of the dam.
        - The majority of this agrees with the assessments and evaluation that Michael has been discussing for months.
      - The report did discuss the extreme rain event in 2011. However the dam safety engineer received a different maximum dam height than GMP had previously stated, and at a point which is much more dangerous.
      - GMP was required to use the particular dam safety engineer because of past questions about the relationship between GMP and their previous engineer.
    - Michael filed the dam safety report as part of the case, as well as the emergency action plan, a "cheat sheet" for understanding the dam elevation levels and the key locations, etc. He also submitted pictures of the work which GMP was conducting this past summer WITHOUT any kind of CPG. The list of exhibits goes on and on, making the case that GMP is not being honest, and that the dam is not safe at all.
    - GMP did not like the exhibits submitted, and filed a motion for an obscure rule (?) which would require Plainfield and GMP to work out the differences between themselves (outside of the CPG case). Essentially mediation.
      - However, this "mediation" request does not stop Plainfield from not being satisfied by this 1-on-1 meeting, and the hearing officer from requiring them to formally respond.
    - Plainfield has as of 3/4/2019 filed a response with the 3 most critical points:
      - Dam safety should be the focus, and this is a requirement for the CPG process.
      - The dam safety report says that the dam is not safe.

- A description and illustration of how GMP vs Plainfield is an unfair dynamic, and that the hearing officer should keep the case open, and resolve the issues within that.
- Plainfield also asked that GMP be enjoined from conducting any further construction until a CPG has been granted (since they did this once already last summer).
- Model Communities
  - The grant was awarded to Plainfield and Marshfield (as well as Dorset).
  - The first planning meeting is on March 18th. This will involve people who have been suggested by Rich and others, and selected by John Copans. John will facilitate the meeting.
    - This meeting will help to determine the schedule, what initiatives are going to be undertaken or considered.
    - It will also be a meet/greet for people involved.
    - Amanda asked about what kinds of projects might come out of this. Rich had some ideas, but these were not fully comprehensive.
    - Michael asked how people are being selected for involvement, and this is not clear. Michael has some ideas about who might want to be involved.
  - There will be a kickoff meeting / supper in April. This will be open to the public.
  - Brainstorming will occur during this dinner, and some planning afterwards.
  - There will be a subsequent priority-setting meeting in June that is open to the public again.
  - After this the work will get going, and people will be trying to implement these things over the next 10 months or so.
- Climate action group update:
  - Twinfield solar and weatherization update, charging station grant (if needed).
    - No update on this.
  - Rich and Anne attended a session related to weatherization of rental properties. He has some details related to this. He is going to suggest that this might be a good topic for the model communities program.
- Discussion about Marshfield charging station grant application
  - Due April 30th, so need to brainstorm and split off a subcommittee.
    - Becky didn't feel like she had the resources to take this on for the last round of grant proposals. She did do some preliminary work on this for the last round, and has an idea of what is involved to get this done.
    - Nick proposed a subcommittee meeting to discuss this.
      - March 11th at 6:30pm is the first subcommittee meeting.
    - Becky had two things from the Selectboard which they didn't like:
      - No cash box, and the town shouldn't pay for this.
      - How do we prevent charger hogging. (e.g. commuters leaving their car plugged in)
- Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
  - No update.
- Plainfield update
  - No update.
- Discussion about weatherization (if needed)
  - Discussion about multiunit home weatherization efforts.
    - No update.
  - Possible purchase of IR camera.
    - No update.
- Draft agenda for next meeting
  - Select a facilitator
  - Public comment
  - Announcements
  - Agenda modification
  - Approval of previous minutes
  - Business
    - Act 174 update
    - Update on planned activities (Jimmy Kennedy Breakfast; Plainfield community supper, town meeting)
    - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam. (if needed)
    - Discussion of model communities grant (if needed)
    - Climate action team (if needed).
    - Discussion about Marshfield charging station grant application
    - Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
    - Plainfield update
    - Discussion about weatherization (if needed)
- Draft agenda for next meeting